

not giving out therapeutic advice; they claim that the council can not do its work unless it is made up of doctors or has a number of them within it. But just stop a moment and think about it; think first of its title; it is a Council on *Pharmacy and Chemistry*—mark you, *not* therapeutics. It had its origin in a more or less general demand to know the actual *composition* of remedies and the truth as to the statements made by the interested manufacturers in foisting them upon the medical profession. In other words, the council is not intended for a therapeutic-advice shop, but it *is* a truth foundry. Physicians are not practical chemists nor are they acquainted with the refinements of pharmacy. In order to determine the truth about any remedial preparation, pharmacists and chemists must examine it and investigate its properties and then say what it is and whether the truth about it is being told to the medical profession. As a result of the work of the council, we now know that there is not a single pharmaceutical manufacturing house in the United States—mark you, *not one*, that has told the absolute truth about all of its preparations. Any one who has even casually followed the exposures published in the *Journal A. M. A.*, will recognize the truth of this statement at once. It is most unfortunate that it should be so, but so it is and it was to put a stop to just that sort of thing that the council was formed. No physician can tell, unaided, whether the manufacturer is telling the truth about his stuff or not; he has not the time nor the knowledge to make chemical examinations himself, nor the money to have some chemist make them. Therefore observe the foolishness of this "straw man" and be not deceived.

In a recent issue of the *Bulletin* of the American Pharmaceutical Association (an organization of scientific men—mostly—for scientific purposes, and not to be confounded with the National Association of Retail Druggists which exists, apparently, for the purpose of aiding the proprietary association and its members in promoting nostrums and "patent medicines"), is an item which demands some consideration. We quote:

"The charge is made that no one can establish a prescription business in that city (San Francisco) without paying commission to the doctors, that these ghouls even collect commission from nurses and morticians."

The officers of the A. Ph. A. are men of the highest standing in the country, including such men as W. M. Searby, of San Francisco; Oscar Oldberg, of Chicago; Henry H. Rusby, of New York, and others of equal standing. Now, Messrs. Searby, Rusby, et al., do you not think it quite fitting that you apologize to the medical profession, not alone of San Francisco but of the entire country, for referring to them as "ghouls"? Whatever their faults, they are members of a learned profession which

gives more of its time, its brains and its work to charitably succoring the sick poor than do all the other professions combined. Are they "ghouls"? That, too frequently, alas! a commission is paid to certain physicians on their prescriptions, is true. But who started the game? Who taught the physicians to take it? Who competed for the prescription business of all the physicians who could be so bought? Who had drummers, local, city agents whose business it was to go to physicians and offer them commissions and endeavor to persuade them to take the filthy money? Who bid, the one against another, each offering somewhat more of this dirty money, to secure certain physicians' business? Messrs. Searby, Rusby, et al., it was *the pharmacists who started the game* and who have seduced and are still trying to seduce physicians into taking this rotten gain. But not all are bad; there are many men in this city of San Francisco who have been approached by representatives of *your* calling over and over again to do this very thing, but in whom there is too much honor and too much honesty to listen to the unhallowed proposition made to them first by one and then by another pharmacist. And yet we are "ghouls," forsooth! All of us, without exception, are without saving grace! As for the two other charges, referring to nurses and "morticians" (*sic*), they are nothing but lies, except in so far as there may be an occasional rascal who would blackmail anyone, if he got a chance; and you find them in all callings, even in politics we have been told, and doubtless amongst the pure-as-the-driven-snow pharmacists might be found some who have grown fat by encouraging the cocaine habit. Really, gentlemen, officers of the American Pharmaceutical Association, don't you think you had better offer some apology to the medical profession, or do you, after due consideration, now that the matter has been called to your attention, still consider yourselves justified in designating physicians as "ghouls"?

Some few county society secretaries are sending to the JOURNAL very full and good reports of their

meetings, the papers read and the discussions thereon; but a good many are not.

SOCIETY REPORTS.

What is the matter? It has been found by experience that these reports are of great interest, not alone to the members of the particular society, but to many general readers and to other societies. New ideas or experiences, new thoughts, new points of view, new suggestions, reports of interesting cases are constantly being made in the county society meetings and these things are things of value; they should not be buried in one county society. Will not the secretaries of county societies give this matter their attention and take sufficient time, immediately after each meeting, to send a transcript of the interesting points brought out to the JOURNAL for publication? It will not take a great deal of time or work, and please, Mr. Secretary, remember that that is one of the things you were elected for.